



Update for key stakeholders

15 July 2021

COVID cases

We had 632 new cases in the seven days to 11 July. The infection rate is 196.4/100,000 across the NHS Highland area: 160.7/100,000 in Argyll and Bute and 209.5/100,000 in North Highland. This is down slightly from last week.

We have 13 patients in hospital with COVID-19 including 3 in ITU. We have 7 ITU beds altogether (with the ability to flex up if needed) of which 3 are occupied with a COVID-19 patient and 4 are occupied with other patients.

There have been 172 recorded deaths in the NHS Highland area since the start of the pandemic: 100 in Highland and 72 in Argyll and Bute. This is an increase of 2 in the last 7 days.

Vaccination

As at 13 July, we have vaccinated 90.1% of over 18 year olds with their first dose, compared to a Scottish average of 88.5%. We have vaccinated 69.3% with their second dose, compared to a Scottish average of 65.5%. You can view progress on the national [vaccination programme online here](#).

Details of drop-in vaccination clinics for first and second doses are available on our [dedicated web page](#). This will continue to be updated as more clinics are added.

System pressures

Pressures continue across the system and Raigmore is currently at Code Red. We are writing to patients whose surgery has been delayed to apologise and explain why we have had to take this action.

Raigmore Hospital inspection

An unannounced inspection was held in June 2021 and a number of areas of good practice were identified, including safeguarding of patients and appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE). We are pleased that colleagues reported that they felt supported and informed throughout the pandemic as NHS Highland adapted systems and processes to ensure patients were cared for in a safe and secure environment.

The HIS report found four areas of good practice including that systems were in place to ensure patients were assessed prior to admission to minimise risk of COVID-19 and strong infection control practices.

Inspectors also made three requirements where they were concerned about the impact on patients. The Health Board must ensure that all wards are maintained or refurbished to allow effective decontamination and ensure a robust audit process to ensure the environment is being well managed.

In addition, NHS Highland must ensure that PPE is worn appropriately by all staff groups in line with the national guidance and that physical distancing between patients can be achieved in the multi-bedded bay areas.

Feedback

If you have comments or queries please contact nhshighland.feedback@nhs.scot